

Child Safeguarding Statement

Communicare Healthcare provides a range of health support services to children, young persons and adults, delivering our services into private homes, hospitals, residential care facilities, hostels and communities across Ireland. Communicare Healthcare is dedicated to providing all our service users with the best quality of care to help them live as independently as possible.

As part of Communicare Healthcare's service delivery, one of our core values is to support the safety, welfare and development of every child and young person using our service. Every member of Communicare staff has a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure every child and young person availing of our service and/or in attendance during the delivery of our service, is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect).

Communicare Healthcare have developed policies and procedures which promote our service delivery in a manner that is safe for children and young persons. These Policies and Procedures help to mitigate the potential for risk to arise and manage risk safely where it might arise.

Our policies and procedures support the safeguarding of children and young persons through our following principles:

1. The safety and welfare of children and young person's using our service is everyone's responsibility.
2. The best interest of the child/young person is paramount.
3. The delivery of our services is carried out in a manner that aims to keep children and young person's safe from harm.

Communicare Healthcare also support the following principles:

1. Children and young persons have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Considering their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
2. Guardians of the child/young person have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in matters which may concern their family.
3. An appropriate balance must be struck between protecting the child/young person and respecting the rights and needs of their guardians.

The policies and procedure set out in our Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all our staff (including employees, trainees, contractors and/or any person performing any role or function with, for or on behalf of Communicare Healthcare).

Communicare Healthcare have updated our Risk Management and Incident Management Policies and Procedures to ensure that they underpin the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Risk Assessment:

Communicare Healthcare have carried out an assessment to help identify any potential for harm to a child/young person while availing of our services. Below you will find a list of areas of the risks identified and the procedures for managing these risks:

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT		
NO:	Risk Identified:	Procedure in place to manage identified risk:
1.	Risk of harm to a child or young person from a member of staff.	• Pre-employment Checks during recruitment
		• Professional standards for healthcare staff.
		• Professional registration for healthcare professionals.
		• Code of behaviour for staff.
		• Trust In Care Policy.
		• Communicare Healthcare Child and Young Persons Protection and Welfare Policy.
		• Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery.
		• National Consent Policy.
2.	Risk of harm to a child or young person from a service user (child, young person or adult), visitor or member of the public.	• Supervision/accompaniment public access polices as relevant to service provision.
		• Staff supervision and training.
		• Reporting Procedure.
3.	Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act(s) and National Guidance	• Children First Governance Structure.
		• Communicare Healthcare Controls assurance process
		• Children First compliance checklist for sections 38 and 39 funded and contracted services.
		• Compliance monitoring and audit of Communicare Healthcare and funded and contracted services.
4.	Risk of harm or concern not being reported.	• Staff information, supervision and training.
		• Reporting Procedure.
		• Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting.
		• Mandatory eLearning (HSE Land) – An introduction to Children First – training for all Communicare Healthcare staff, with additional training and support as necessary and relevant to services delivery.
		• Consultation with service users – Induction meeting before start of care to hear the service users' needs/

		wants and potential risks. Monthly visits to service users and family to discuss care being provided
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Procedures:

The Communicare Healthcare Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)* and *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedure support our intention to safeguard children and young persons while they are availing of our services.

- Policy for safeguarding and protection of vulnerable persons at risk of Abuse.
- Communicare Policy on the Protection and Welfare of children
- Policy on investigation and disciplinary
- Policy on responding to complaints.
- Policy on incident reporting.
- Recruitment policy for the selection of suitable staff.
- Garda Vetting Policy.
- Staff training Policy – relevant training given to staff to assist with requirements of the child/young persons.
- Procedure for appointing relevant person. (Communicare CEO. They are the Designated Liaison Person and all nurses are mandated persons within the company).
- Trust In care policy to define how to investigate an allegation made.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Communicare Healthcare.
- Development and review of Child Safeguarding is the responsibility of Communicare CEO

Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process and Communicare is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young person safe from harm while availing of our services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually with the Child Protection Policy or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

The Child Safeguarding Statement is available to all Communicare Healthcare staff and is displayed in all Communicare Healthcare offices.

All nurses are mandated persons as stated under the Children First legislation.

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